

PROPOSITION 59

Date: July 15, 2004

Public Records, Open Meetings.

Legislative Constitutional Amendment.

Resolution Chapter 1, Statutes of 2004 (SCA 1).

Sponsors: Senators John Burton and Bruce McPherson.

**BALLOT TITLE AND SUMMARY**

**PUBLIC RECORDS, OPEN MEETINGS.  
LEGISLATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.**

Measure amends Constitution to:

- Provide right of public access to meetings of government bodies and writings of government officials.
- Provide that statutes and rules furthering public access shall be broadly construed, or narrowly construed if limiting access.
- Require future statutes and rules limiting access to contain findings justifying necessity of those limitations.
- Preserve constitutional rights including rights of privacy, due process, equal protection; expressly preserves existing constitutional and statutory limitations restricting access to certain meetings and records of government bodies and officials, including law enforcement and prosecution records.

Exempts Legislature's records and meetings.

**Summary of Legislative Analyst's Estimate of Net  
State and Local Government Fiscal Impact:**

- Potential minor annual state and local government costs to make additional information available to the public.

**OFFICIAL TITLE AND SUMMARY  
PREPARED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**SUBJECT TO COURT  
ORDERED CHANGES**